

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/464,784

Examiner

Charles Chow

Applicant(s)

FREEMAN ET AL.

Art Unit

2685

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/18/04.
2. ☐ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4,6-31,33 and 35.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Detailed Action

1. In applicant's amendment filed 8/17/2004, claim 36 has been cancelled, and all other remaining claims were allowed in the previous office action.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-4, 6-31, 33, 35 are allowable over the prior art of record. The following is the examiner's statement for the reasons of allowance:

The above claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the cited references fail to disclose singly, particularly, or in combination, the subject matter, filed on 12/17/1999, for a system, method, apparatus, for managing call billing records for users of signaling network operative to carry user calls, comprising a gateway interfacing the signaling network with an internet service provider and a local exchange carrier and operative to collect call billing data from the signaling network in a first data structure format; and a network processor operative to receive the collected call billing data in the first data structure format from the gateway, convert the collected call billing data from the first data format to a second data structure format, access a directory of call event records associated with the call billing data in the first data structure format within the gateway; generate an output file representing the call billing data in the second data format based on the call event records, wherein the second data structure includes default values for header fields and trailer fields; and transmit the output file to a data network for billing processing by a co-carrier access billing system for settlement with the internet service provider and the local exchange carrier, as shown in the independent claims 1, 10, 17, 22. The dependent claims are also allowable due to their dependency upon the independent claims.

The closest prior art to Cameron et al. (US 6,317,490 B1) teaches a real time billing information service for providing billing account summary information queried by subscriber, in a telecomm. network (abstract, Fig. 1-7, col. 1, lines 35-50), having billing administrator 10 for processing billing data based on the rate table 60 (Fig. 6), retrieving account detail from account table (Fig. 3-4), having inter-exchange carrier, local exchange carrier, col. 2, line 61 to col. 3, line 4). Cameron et al. fails to teach the gateway interfacing the signaling network with an internet service provider, the converting collected call billing data from the first data format to a second data structure format, the generate an output file representing the call billing data in the second data format based on the call event records, wherein the second data structure includes default values for header fields and trailer fields; and transmit the output filer to a data network for billing processing by a co-carrier access billing system for settlement with the internet service provider and the local exchange carrier. Other considerations have been made to the following relevant prior arts. They are teaching the above claimed features. Doherty et al. (US 5,333,184) teaches billing of a subscriber's call based on the different primary inter-exchange carrier indicator PIC, in the exchange message interface EMI, for treating differently about the billing charge (abstract, Fig. 1-2, Fig. 5-6, col. 1, lines 6-8, col. 1, line 52 to col. 2, line 25), having the translating of the AMA record format to EMI format (col. 3, lines 25-48). Doherty does not teach the gateway interfacing the signaling network with an internet service provider, the wherein the second data structure includes default values for header fields and trailer fields; and transmit the output filer to a data network for billing processing by a co-carrier access billing system for settlement with the internet service provider and the local exchange carrier. Walker et al. (US

Art Unit: 2685

5,949,875) teaches billing collection system for user service provided over computer data network (abstract, Fig. 1-2, Fig. 7-15), the internet (col. 4, lines 1-8; col. 8, lines 1-3), having the collecting and transferring billing information to local exchange company LEC for distributing phone bill (col. 7, lines 40-50; col. 9, line 65 to col. 10, line 15). Walker fails to teach the converting collected call billing data from the first data format to a second data structure format, the generate an output file representing the call billing data in the second data format based on the call event records, wherein the second data structure includes default values for header fields and trailer fields; and transmit the output file to a data network for billing processing by a co-carrier access billing system for settlement.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles Chow whose telephone number is (703)-306-5615.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Urban, can be reached at (703)-305-4385.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to: (703) 872-9306 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

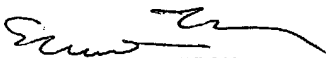
Art Unit: 2685

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to 220 20th Street, Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby,
Room 1B03, Arlington, VA 22202 (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or
proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office
whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Charles Chow *C.C.*

October 2, 2004.


EDWARD F. URBAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600